

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spring motor, and

a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the
spring motor; and,

a one-way tensioning mechanism, wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one direction, and wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to not provide a resistant force on movement of the one of the first and second cords in the opposite direction.

Claim 2 (previously amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spring motor, and

a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the spring motor; and,

a one-way tensioning mechanism, wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one direction, wherein the one-way tensioning mechanism comprises:

a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with each upright defining an

aperture and further, each upright including a pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl and,

a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pulley having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the pawl on each upright.

Claim 3 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the pulley is configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 4 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 3, wherein the aperture in the first upright is sized different from the aperture in the second upright.

Claim 5 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the base and two uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The cordless blind of Claim 1, including a second one-way tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant force on movement in one direction of the other cord, and wherein the second tensioning mechanism is configured to not provide a resistant force on movement in the opposite direction of the other cord.

Claim 7 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 8 (original): A one-way tensioning mechanism in a cordless blind with the cordless blind having a headrail, a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by at least a first cord and a second cord, a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail, a drive actuator including a spring motor, and a spool for accumulating the cords coupled

to the spring motor, the one-way tensioning mechanism coupled to one of the first cord and the second cord, the one-way tensioning mechanism comprising:

a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl and,

a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pulley having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the pawl on each upright,

wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one direction.

Claim 9 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the spool is configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 10 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 9, wherein the aperture in the first upright is sized different from the aperture in the second upright.

Claim 11 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the base and two uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

Claim 12 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, including a second one-way tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant force on movement in one direction of the other cord.

Claim 13 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a means for actuating coupled to the cords; and,

a means for providing a resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one direction, and wherein the means for providing does not provide a resistant force on movement of the one of the first and second cords in the opposite direction.

Claim 15 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein means for providing a resistant force comprises:

a means for supporting, including a means for engaging; and, a means for tensioning coupled to the means for supporting,

with the means for tensioning configured to selectively engage the means for engaging.

Claim 16 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 15, wherein the means for tensioning is configured to move within the means for supporting to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 17 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 16, wherein the means for supporting includes a first aperture and a second aperture with the first aperture sized different from the second aperture.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The cordless blind of Claim 14, including a second means for ~~tensioning configured to provide~~ providing a resistant force on movement in one direction of the other cord, and wherein the second means for providing is configured to not provide a resistant force on movement in the opposite direction of the other cord.

Claim 19 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein the means for actuating is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 20 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 14, including at least one additional means for actuating mounted in the headrail and coupled to the cords.

Claim 21 (original): A method of providing a resistant force in a cordless blind, the method comprising:

providing a cordless blind, the blind having a headrail, a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord, a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail, a drive actuator including a spring motor and spool for accumulating the cords;

installing a one-way tensioning mechanism;

winding one of the first cord and second cord around a pulley, having a plurality of ratchet teeth, mounted in the one-way tensioning mechanism; and

providing at least one pawl on the tensioning mechanism, with the pawl aligned to selectively engage the ratchet teeth of the pulley;

wherein the pulley is configured to move within the tensioning mechanism to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21, including the steps of installing a second one-way tensioning mechanism and winding the other of the first and second cord around a second pulley, having a plurality of ratchet teeth, mounted in the second one-way tensioning mechanism.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the one-way tensioning mechanism is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least one cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail; and

a pulley operatively engaged with the cord and being rotatable in only one direction, wherein the pulley is adapted to not provide a resistive force on the cord when the pulley rotates in the one direction, and to provide a resistive force on the cord when the cord causes the pulley to rotate in the opposite direction.

Claim 25 (original): The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is mounted in a mechanism bracket, with the bracket configured for the pulley to move to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 26 (original): The cordless blind of claim 24, including a second cord attached to the bottom rail and operatively coupled to the headrail; and a second pulley operatively engaged with the second cord and being rotatable in only one direction.

Claim 27 (original): The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

- a headrail;
- a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least one cord;
- a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail; and
- a tensioner operatively engaged with the cord applying a first frictional force opposing movement of the cord in only one direction, wherein the tensioner does not oppose movement of the cord in the opposite direction.

Claim 29 (original): The cordless blind of claim 27, including a second cord operatively coupled to the bottom rail and headrail; and a second tensioner operatively engaged with the second cord applying a second frictional force opposing movement of the second cord in only one direction.

Claim 30 (original): The cordless blind of claim 28, wherein the tensioner is mounted in the headrail.